

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: MAY 3 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST
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LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT 21 OF
37 MEMBERS OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
SIGNED "RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL" ON MIDEAST JET FIGHTER
PACKAGE. WEINRAUB SAID "'RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL' IS
PROCEDURAL MOVE, INTRODUCED AS FIRST STEP IN HOUSE TO

REJECT ARMS PACKAGE. ALTHOUGH ARMS PACKAGE FACES SEVERAL KEY CONGRESSIONAL TESTS IN NEXT FEW DAYS, SIZEABLE SUPPORT FOR MEASURE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS FACING STIFF FIGHT." REP. STEPHEN SOLARZ SAID "THIS CONCLUSIVELY SHOWS THAT THERE ARE VOTES TO DEFEAT ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED ARMS PACKAGE IN MIDDLE EAST IN ABSENCE OF ANY EFFORT ON PART OF ADMINISTRATION TO REACH COMPROMISE." WEINRAUB REPORTED THAT "ADMINISTRATION INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT HAD ENOUGH VOTES FOR APPROVAL." HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE UNTIL MAY 28 TO REJECT PACKAGE.

2. ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID "ALTHOUGH VANCE HAS SAID LITTLE ABOUT HIS APRIL TALKS IN MOSCOW, SOME SALT TWO DISPUTES WERE SETTLED THERE. EXCEPT FOR FEW REMAINING UNRESOLVED ISSUES, AGREEMENT IS SET IN CONCRETE." SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS SAID "PRESIDENTIAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR SUMMER SUMMIT HERE WITH SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV TO SIGN NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT, GAMBLE RISKING JIMMY CARTER'S LEADERSHIP AT HOME AS WELL AS HIS COMMAND OF WEST AGAINST MOSCOW'S WORLD OFFENSIVE. GAMBLE AND RISK STEM FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRIVATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT HE DOES NOT NOW HAVE VOTES IN SENATE TO APPROVE NEW TREATY. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS DETERMINED TO SEND TREATY TO SENATE LATE THIS YEAR, WITHOUT ASKING FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. HE WOULD THEN SEEK UNCLASSIFIED

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TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC FEAR OF NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST TO BUILD PRESSURE FOR SALT TWO IN 1979. WHAT'S MORE, DESPITE INCREASINGLY ADVENTUROUS WORLDWIDE CONDUCT BY KREMLIN, CARTER HAS REINFORCED HIS POLICY AGAINST ANY LINKAGE OF SALT WITH SOVIET GOOD BEHAVIOR....THIS ANTI-LINKAGE, TURN-OTHER-CHEEK POLICY RAISES SOME EYEBROWS IN WESTERN EUROPE. BUT WHAT REALLY BUILDS FEAR THERE IS PROSPECT THAT SENATE REFUSAL TO RATIFY SALT TWO WOULD GRIEVOUSLY COMPROMISE CARTER AS LEADER OF WESTERN ALLIANCE." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID HENRY KISSINGER WARNED APRIL 19 IN NEW YORK TALK THAT SENATE APPROVAL OF NEW ARMS CONTROL TREATY WAS NOW QUESTIONABLE. "WITHOUT SUPPORT OF KISSINGER, WHICH HE HAD IN FULL MEASURE DURING HIS NIP-AND-TUCK BATTLE OVER PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, CARTER COULD NOT COUNT ON EVEN SMALL PERCENTAGE OF REPUBLICAN SENATORS WHO MADE PANAMA RATIFICATION POSSIBLE. STILL PRESIDENT HAS MADE HIS IRREVOCABLE DECISION TO BRING BREZHNEV HERE, THEN TAKE HIS CHANCES BY APPEALING TO COUNTRY OVER SENATE'S HEAD. THAT IS DOUBLE-OR-NOTHING BET THAT, IF LOST, WOULD BE MOST SEVERE SETBACK YET TO CARTER'S PRESIDENCY."

3. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED REUTER DISPATCH SAYING BREZHNEV SAID IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN BONN BY SOCIAL DEMO-

CRATIC PARTY WEEKLY VORWARTS THAT MOSCOW WAS READY TO AGREE TO MUTUAL REDUCTION OF EAST-WEST FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE BY HALF, PROVIDING BALANCE OF POWER WAS NOT DISTURBED. BREZHNEV SAID, "WE ARE PREPARED AT ANY TIME IN VIENNA TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON REDUCTION OF LEVEL OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE BY FIVE, TEN, TWENTY, IF YOU LIKE EVEN BY FIFTY PERCENT." BREZHNEV ALSO SAID "SOVIET UNION HAS NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING ANY STATE IN WEST, EAST, NORTH OR SOUTH. SOVIET UNION HAS NO INTENTION OF 'CONQUERING' WESTERN EUROPE."

4. NEWSWEEK (MAY 8) REPORTED THAT "BECAUSE CHANCES OF SENATE RATIFICATION OF SALT TWO TREATY ARE CONSIDERED UNCLASSIFIED

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REMOTE AT PRESENT, ONE WHITE HOUSE FACTION--BACKED BY SOME SENATORS--SUGGESTS SUBMITTING SALT TWO AS AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ONLY MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH HOUSES AS AGAINST TREATY'S NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS OF SENATE. THAT ROUTE SUCCEEDED FOR KEY PART OF SALT ONE IN 1972, BUT MANY OF CARTER'S ADVISERS FEEL THAT SALT TWO IS TOO PIVOTAL AN ISSUE TO BE OFFERED UP IN WAY THAT COULD SMACK OF CHEAP POLITICS."

5. JAMES CANAN, IN MAY 1 BUSINESS WEEK COMMENTARY, SAID "IN PUTTING OFF PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WARHEAD THAT SOVIETS REGARD AS ANATHEMA, CARTER HAS PLAYED OUT HIS STRING OF COME-ONS TO KREMLIN....TIME IS PAST DUE FOR SOVIET RESPONSE TO CARTER'S UNILATERAL ARMS RESTRAINT OVERTURES." CANAN SAID CARTER IS CLINGING TO HOPE THAT BREZHNEV WILL AGREE TO SUMMIT MEETING, PERHAPS AS SOON AS NEXT MONTH. "VANCE IS TRYING TO ARRANGE IT. ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAY THAT CARTER REGARDS SUMMIT, IDEALLY WITH NEW SALT TREATY ON TABLE FOR SIGNING, AS KEYSTONE TO BETTERMENT OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. THIS, THEY SAY, IS REAL REASON FOR HIS DECISION TO DEFER NEUTRON WARHEAD PRODUCTION." CHRISTOPHER

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